



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE
of
PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

March 10, 2020

Dear Diocesan School/Early Learning Center Families:

Our principals and directors met last week and discussed the topic of the Coronavirus. In addition, there has been communication among diocesan offices within the ecclesiastical province of Florida.

Please know that the diocese and schools/early learning centers are treating this virus seriously and are creating plans now on how to react in the case of local confirmed outbreaks. Communication will be cascaded down from the Office for Catholic Schools within the next few days regarding emergency planning including virtual teaching, if a school closure happens to be necessary. In the meantime, we want you to know what we are doing at the school level in an immediate response to the virus.

- We have either trained employees who clean or a commercial cleaning company who come into the school/center twice a week after hours to clean our classrooms and bathrooms.
- We have bottles of hand sanitizer and are ordering more to spread throughout the school.
- We have boxes of tissues in each classroom.
- We are posting instructions sheets near all sinks for the children on proper handwashing procedures.
- We have scheduled a safety-training with the Coronavirus as the topic for our staff meeting.

School parents, please remember our school policy that if our local school district closes for weather related or health related issues, we also will close that day. We may have a different opening date due to the needs of our specific community, but we defer to the local public school superintendent in regards to school closures, as do the other private schools within our diocese.

PLEASE NOTE: For the remainder of this school year, if a child stays home sick and turns in a doctor note (emailed to the school office), that absence will not be counted against the student in regards to perfect attendance. It is more important to us that you keep your sick children home rather than send them to school in an effort to achieve any perfect attendance award that may exist at your school.

Please remember that our parent/student handbooks state that if a student is ill with anything contagious or has exhibited a fever of 100 degrees or more, rash, vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours, the student may not be sent to school. Please make sure your children are fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours before sending them to school.

Anyone traveling to Level 3 countries (currently China, Iran, Italy and South Korea) should self-quarantine upon return and avoid contact with others for 14 days.

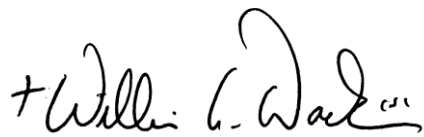
We are taking a proactive approach, and if nothing else, hurricanes have taught us the importance of being prepared and having a plan in advance. There is nothing to fear at this time, and we want to make sure that everyone is sure to get information from good sources. The CDC and WHO, along with state and local health departments, are our sources of information.

Please see current information on the diocesan website at the following link:

<https://ptdiocese.org/coronavirus>

What you should know about the Coronavirus: <https://bit.ly/3aKLSDD>

Coronavirus Factsheet: <https://bit.ly/2TXjnLZ>



Most Reverend William Wack, CSC
Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee



Mike Juhas
Superintendent of Catholic Schools